

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 089277

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, GR (KENNEDY, CON. GEN. CHARLES S.)

SUBJECT: ALLEGED ANTI- GOG STATEMENT BY CONSUL GENERAL
KENNEDY

1. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR MAY 10 CARRIES FOLLOWING
REPORT UNDER HEADLINE " U. S. DIPLOMAT LABELS GREEK REGIME
CORRUPT":

BEGIN TEXT: U. S. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HAVE
ALWAYS BEEN SCRUPULOUSLY CAREFUL IN HOW THEY CHARACTERIZE
AND CRITICIZE THE GROUP OF ARMY COLONELS WHICH HAS
GOVERNED GREECE FOR THE LAST SIX YEARS.

DESPITE THE LACK OF ALMOST ANY SIGN OF PROGRESS TOWARD
A RETURN TO PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY, A RETURN THE COLONELS
HAVE PROMISED, THE U. S. STANCE HAS BEEN ONE OF CONTINUED
HOPE AND THE MOST MUTED CRITICISM. THE FACT THAT GREECE
IS A NATO ALLY (THE U. S. RECENTLY ESTABLISHED A NAVY
HOME- PORTING BASE THERE) HAS BEEN CONSTANTLY CITED AS
THE MAJOR REASON.

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FOR ALL OFFICIAL PURPOSES, THE U. S. POSTURE IS STILL THE SAME. HOWEVER, U. S. CONSUL GENERAL CHARLES KENNEDY IN THE EMBASSY IN ATHENS HAS EDGED BEYOND THE USUAL TERMINOLOGY IN DESCRIBING THE PRESENT REGIME AS " CORRUPT".

HE DID SO IN CONVERSATIONS WITH A HARVARD PROFESSOR WHO VISITED GREECE EARLIER THIS YEAR TO SERVE AS A CHARACTER WITNESS FOR DR. STEFANOS PANDELAKIS, A GREEK PEDIATRICIAN SINCE SENTENCED TO A SEVEN- YEAR- AND- EIGHT- MONTH PRISON TERM ON CHARGES OF PLANTING BOMBS AS A PROTEST AGAINST THE PRESENT GREEK GOVERNMENT.

SENATOR RECEIVED LETTER

IN A LETTER TO SEN. EDWARD M. KENNEDY (D) OF MASSACHUSETTS AFTER HIS RETURN, DR. LEON EISENBERG, PROFESSOR OF PSYCHIATRY AT HARVARD, REPORTS THAT HE WAS " APPALLED" AT THE CONSUL GENERAL' S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE GREEKS AND THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN ATHENS.

" HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WAS CORRUPT BUT SUGGESTED THAT SO HAD ALL OF THE PREVIOUS GREEK GOVERNMENTS BEEN," SAID PROFESSOR EISENBERG IN PRIVATE TO SENATOR KENNEDY. THIS STATEMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED BY GREEK RESISTANCE LEADER ELIAS DEMETRACOPOULOS WHO NOW LIVES IN WASHINGTON. " HE SEEMED REMARKABLY INSENSITIVE TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AND A DICTATORSHIP...."

COMMENTING ON THE CONTENT OF THE REPORTED CONVERSATION MR. DEMETRACOPOULOS SAYS, " IT IS VERY REVEALING ... THAT THE SENIOR U. S. DIPLOMAT IN ATHENS, WHO HAS BEEN REPORTEDLY FRIENDLY TOWARD THE GREEK MILITARY DICTATORSHIP AND HOSTILE TO GREECE' S DEMOCRATIC FORCES, IS NOW CONFIRMING FOR THE RECORD WHAT WE HAVE KNOWN AND STATED ALL ALONG -- THAT THIS ATHENS REGIME IS A CORRUPT ONE."

DR. EISENBERG' S LETTER TO SENATOR KENNEDY FURTHER STATES THAT HE NOTED EVIDENCE OF A " BEGINNING UNITY" AMONG OPPOSITION PARTIES AND SAID THAT OPPOSITION LEADERS

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" URGED UPON ME THE MESSAGE THAT AMERICA IS BUYING, NOT ONLY THE ENMITY OF GREEK INTELLECTUALS, STUDENTS, AND THE AVERAGE MAN ON THE STREET, BUT IS AS WELL POURING ITS DOLLARS DOWN A RATHOLE OF INEFFICIENCY AND CORRUPTION INsofar AS WE EXPECT GREECE TO BE AN EFFECTIVE MILITARY COMPONENT OF NATO." END TEXT

2. GREEK EMBASSY HERE HAS APPROACHED DEPARTMENT FOR
" CLARIFICATION" UNDERSCORING " DELICATE" SITUATION NEWS
REPORT HAS CREATED.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENT SOONEST IN ORDER
PROVIDE BOTH " CLARIFICATION" REQUESTED BY GREEK EMBASSY AND
GUIDANCE FOR RESPONSE POSSIBLE PRESS INQUIRY. ROGERS

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